

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

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TAGS: SOPN

SUBJ: MUZOREWA DENIES THAT INTERNAL SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED

INTERNAL-BASED RHODESIAN NATIONALIST BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA
HAS REFUTED REPORTS THAT AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT OF THE RHODESIAN
CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS HAS BEEN REACHED IN SALISBURY, THE PARTY-OWNED
TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTS TODAY (FEBRUARY 22). A FRONT-PAGE
6 COLUMN LEAD STORY FROM ITS SALISBURY "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT"
QUOTES THE BISHOP AS SAYING THAT THE TALKS BETWEEN HIM,
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REVEREND NDABANINGI SITHOLE, CHIEF CHIRAU AND PRIME MINISTER
IAN SMITH HAD PRODUCED ONLY ONE THING: AGREEMENT ON THE FRANCHISE.
ASKED TO CONFIRM REPORTS OF A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA, BISHOP
MUZOREWA SAIDGC "YOU CAN CORRECT THOSE REPORTS. THERE IS NO
SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. SETTLEMENT TALKS ARE GOING ON AND
THERE ARE ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON. THERE ARE MORE
CRUCIAL ISSUES THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN AGREED UPON THAT COULD

INFLUENCE THE CONFERENCE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER -- CAUSE IT TO COLLAPSE COMPLETELY." OTHER SOURCES WITHIN THE UNITED AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (UANC) TOLD THE CORRESPONDENT THAT "A BROAD OUTLINE" OF AGREEMENT OVER THE FUTURE OF THE ARMY AND SECURITY FORCES IN RHODESIA HAD ALSO BEEN AGREED UPON.

THE TIMES REPORTED THAT IN AN INTERVIEW HERE IN LUSAKA, PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO DECLARED THAT BRITAIN WANTED AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA, AND THAT IT WAS PART OF A PLAN FOR THE WEST TO RETAIN INFLUENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. "THE WESTERN WORLD HAS A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THOSE IT CONSIDERS OPPONENTS. THE WEST FEELS THAT IT LOST OUT IN THE FAR EAST, ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE AND IS FIGHTING BACK. THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

-- US -- ARE THE VICTIMS." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IDEA IN RHODESIA HAD BEEN FORMULATED LONG AGO BY BRITAIN9 "AFTER GENEVA, THEY (THE BRITISH) CAME WITH TWO PLANS. THE ANGLO-US PLAN ABOVE THE TABLE, AND UNDER THE TABLE ONE WITH THE BISHOP (MUZOREWA)."

ACCORDING TO THE TIMES SALISBURY CORRESPONDENT, MR. SMITH CALLED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT "A FEW CRANKS" WHO ARE GOING TO FIGHT FOR THEIR OWN SELFISH ENDS AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THEY ARE GOING TO SUCCEED."

BOTH MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE, WHEN ASKED IF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

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WOULD NOT LOSE ZIMBABWE THE FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT OF ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA, SHRUGGED THEIR SHOULDERS: "KAUNDA AND NYERERE WILL COME AROUND TO IT," THEY DECLARED. SMITH CALLED KAUNDA'S POSITION "INCOMPREHENSIBLE. HE IS INCONSISTENT."

ALL THREE NATIONALISTS, ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, "ARE TAKING A SOFT LINE ON THE QUESTION OF THE ARMY AND SECURITY FORCES. THEY KNOW THEY HAVE LITTLE OR NO FIREPOWER OF THEIR OWN AND NEED SMITH'S TROOPS TO DEFEND THEM AGAINST WHAT IS UNDOUBTEDLY GOING TO BE A FEROUCIOUS ONSLAUGHT BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT." ITEM USIS LUSAKA.
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